

SENATE BILL 223

Unofficial Copy
J1
SB 434/01 - EEA

2003 Regular Session
3r0998

By: **Senators Hollinger, Hooper, Britt, Conway, and Jacobs**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2003
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Right to Breast-Feed**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a mother to breast-feed her child in any public or
4 private place under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain restrictions on
5 breast-feeding; and generally relating to the right to breast-feed.

6 BY adding to
7 Article - Health - General
8 Section 20-801 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8. Breast-Feeding"
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

11 **Preamble**

12 WHEREAS, More than 2 decades of research have established that breast-fed
13 infants have lower rates of hospital admissions, ear infections, diarrhea, rashes,
14 allergies, and other medical problems than bottle-fed infants; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics states that human milk is
16 made for human infants and meets all their specific nutritional needs; and

17 WHEREAS, Human breast milk contains antibodies from the mother that can
18 help an infant resist infections; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association
20 of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners recommend breast-feeding for as long
21 as possible during a child's first year of life; and

22 WHEREAS, Health experts have stated that increased breast-feeding rates
23 could save infant lives; and

24 WHEREAS, Government and private experts are working to raise the rate of
25 breast-feeding of infants; and

26 WHEREAS, No mother should be made to feel incriminated or socially
27 ostracized for breast-feeding her child; and

1 WHEREAS, The State is interested in the promotion of family values and to
2 that end encourages public acceptance of this basic act of nurture between a mother
3 and her child; and

4 WHEREAS, There is a social and economic benefit for the State in the creation
5 of an atmosphere in which a mother can feel safe and confident about breast-feeding
6 her child; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
8 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article - Health - General**

10 **SUBTITLE 8. BREAST-FEEDING.**

11 20-801.

12 (A) A MOTHER MAY BREAST-FEED HER CHILD IN ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
13 LOCATION IN WHICH THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE.

14 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT RESTRICT OR LIMIT THE RIGHT OF A MOTHER TO
15 BREAST-FEED HER CHILD.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2003.